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FLOOR DEBATE

January 13, 2003    LB 115  
                         LR 3

couple of years. In 1995 and '96, there were six bills and two bills, respectively, that were referenced to the Exec Board. Not every one of them might have been Government Committee bills, but I'm just...that's the record that I have. Then, in '96 and '97, again there were two bills in '96, there were eight bills in '97; and in '98 there were four bills. In 1999, I was once again elected Chair of the Government Committee and it got my attention when bills that I traditionally thought had belonged to Government Committee were being referenced to the Exec Board, and again in 2000, 2001, and 2002. Well, the one that got my attention this morning particularly, well, there were several, but there was a bill, LB 115, that was referenced this year from...to the Exec Board, and it's the bill about providing a duty for the Auditor of Public Accounts. Now, Senator Redfield, I'm guessing that's about the same bill that you brought last year, and last year it did come to the Government Committee, and we have always dealt with bills that deal with the Auditor of Public Accounts. There was also a bill, LR 3CA by Senator Beutler, dealing with a constitutional amendment creating an Ethics and Compensation Review Commission for the Legislature. I can remember in '94 I actually chaired a seminar for the whole Legislature, along with Bob Spire, on the ethics of the Legislature, and actually...maybe I didn't chair it, maybe I introduced Bob Spire. Anyway, I was very involved in that. That was considered to be Government Committee territory at that time. So I went to the Exec Board this morning and I protested and I didn't win. (Laugh) I didn't win at all. And after I left the Exec Board Committee this morning, there was a Government Committee bill that was reintroduced this year. It had been a Government priority bill last year and it was referenced to Judiciary Committee. Now, Senator Chambers and I have had a discussion about this and it is true, this is a bill regarding domestic violence and there have been some bills before Judiciary before, but this particular bill was one that the Government Committee worked on for the last two or three years and, if you remember, Senator Bruning had a bill and we melded those two together and passed it forward as a priority bill last year. The only reason it didn't pass last year, I think, is because it had a \$40,000 price tag attached to it and so we never got to it. So there is a frustration on my part, and I think on the part of the Executive Committee, over what's